PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-10 and 12-32 are currently pending. Independent claims 1, 10, 22, and 25 have been amended. Claim 11 has been canceled without prejudice. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 2, 8-10, 13, 15-16, 18-22, 24, 25, 31 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Shah et al. (U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2003/0078893).

Claims 3-7, 11-12, 14, 17, 23, 26-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shah in view of Austin (U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2003/0200280).

Claims 1, 10, 22, and 25 have been amended to expedite prosecution and not to overcome the rejections of the Office Action, as Applicants submit that the cited reference Shah fails to teach every limitation of claims 1, 10, 22, and 25 prior to the claim's current amendments. As amended, claim 1 recites "requesting said stamp from said website server <u>over the Internet</u>; receiving a markup language message <u>over the Internet</u> comprising encoded binary data representing a machine-readable portion of an indicium associated with said stamp," (emphasis added).

Shaw, as understood, discusses a postage metering system where postage is purchased and sent from a remote postage printing system (RPPD) to a secure metering device (SMD) via a wireless communication link. See the abstract of Shah. The wireless communication link is described in the application as a <u>cellular link, a terrestrial link, a satellite link, an RF link, an infrared link, or a microwave link</u>. See Shah at paragraph 34 among other locations. Nowhere does Shah ever describe the link as being an Internet link. Not only does Shaw fail to describe a link that is an Internet link, Shaw fails to describe requesting content from a website. Shaw, as understood, describes requesting postage from a central processing system. A processing system merely because it is centrally located does not in anyway indicate the processing system is a website. Websites, as is well known in the art, have unique characteristics, such as being configured to communicate via the Internet. Nowhere does Shaw describe a central processing system having the unique characteristics of a website.

NO.810   P.13/13

PATENT

Appl. No. 09/902,479
Amdt. dated October 6, 2006
Amendment filed with RCE
Examination Group 3639

Further, because Shah fails entirely to discuss a method for requesting and receiving a stamp over the Internet from a website, Shaw therefore fails to disclose transferring the stamp in a markup language. As is well know in the art, a markup language is a unique language used on the Internet for transferring text, images and the like. As Shaw fails to describe the transfer of a stamp over the Internet, Shah, therefore, fails entirely to describe sending a stamp in a markup language. For at least the foregoing reasons, Shah fails entirely to anticipate amended claim 1.
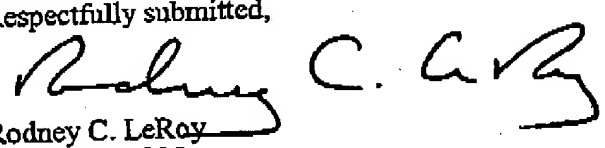
Independent claims 10, 22, and 25 have been amended to recite limitations similar to those limitation of amended claim 1 that were distinguished from Shaw above. Therefore, for at least the same reasons that Shah fails to anticipate amended claim 1, Shaw similarly fails to anticipate each of amended claims 10, 22, and 25.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,

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